

DRAFT MINUTES  
Meeting of the  
TRINITY ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP  
September 4, 2003  
Victorian Inn - Weaverville, CA

Thursday September 4, 2003

The meeting was open to the public.

Members in attendance:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Representative Seat</b>
Serge Birk	Central Valley Project Water Association
Tim Colvin	Trinity Lake Resort Owners Association
Edgar Duggan	Willow Creek Community Services District
James Feider	City of Redding Electric Utility Department
Patrick Frost	Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Dan Haycox	Miners Alliance
Dana Hord	Big Bar Community Development Group
William Huber	South Fork Trinity River CRMP
Tom Weseloh (alternate)	California Trout, Inc.
Richard Lorenz	Trinity County Resident
Charles Schultz	Bureau of Land Management
Elizabeth Soderstrom	Natural Heritage Institute
Jill Geist (alternate)	Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
James Spear	Natural Resource Conservation Service
David Steinhauser	Six Rivers Outfitter and Guide Association
Arnold Whitridge (Chair)	Safe Alternatives for Forest Environment

**Designated Federal  
Representative**

Mary Ellen Mueller	USFWS California-Nevada Operations Office
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**Members not in attendance:** Kevin Lewis, Zeke Grader, and Jeff Bryant

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Chairman Arnold Whitridge opened the meeting and the members introduced themselves. Members of the audience also introduced themselves.

Whitridge proposed some changes to the agenda.

Whitridge next asked for comments and changes to the minutes.

The June and July minutes were reviewed. Whitridge added three editorial corrections to the June minutes. Four members added corrections to the July minutes.

**A motion was made by Ed Duggan to accept minutes as amended.**

**The motion was seconded by Jill Geist**

**The motion was passed.**

## **2. Public Comment**

Ed Duggan wished to comment with respect to a discussion summarized in the July minutes. In the July minutes, Daryl Peterson was noted as stating that there were no fish barriers in the Klamath River above the confluence with the Trinity River. Duggan wanted to note that there are low-flow fish barriers on the Klamath River above the Trinity River (e.g., between I-5 highway crossing and Weitchpec). Duggan noted that there are six class-4 rapids, the worst of which is Ishi Pishi Falls and Ike Rapids. Fish have difficulty passing such falls under low flows. Duggan's point was that there could be congregations of fish in these reaches following the emergency releases of the 50,000 acre-feet from Trinity Dam.

## **3. Executive Director's Report**

Doug Schleusner, Trinity River Restoration Program, passed out a handout (Attachment 1) that contained his report. He also introduced Tom Stokely (Trinity County). Stokely presented an update on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). Stokely noted that the SEIS is proceeding as ordered by the recent court decision. Stokely noted that there are several alternatives being considered under the SEIS. He also described a model CALSIM2 that predicts water quality under various alternatives of flow release. There has to be a new Biological Opinion and this will be incorporated with a Central Valley operation plan (CVP OCAP). Stokely noted that the Biological Opinion would be delayed until July 2004—partially due to the Napa Proposal.

Doug Schleusner continued with the report. He described public outreach activities. He showed the Trinity River Restoration Program exhibit for public outreach that was shown at the Trinity County Fair and would be used in upcoming public events.

Schleusner also noted several other items from his handout: rehabilitation, contacts, and meetings. He reviewed the schedules and progress on the bridge replacements. Ed Solbos of the Bureau of Reclamation also provided additional background on negotiations with residents near the Salt Flat Bridge. These negotiations are complicated in that they involve exchanges of private land and there are citizens' negative perceptions regarding the Bureau of Land Management and land exchange. The general feeling was that the negotiations will be successful and the bridge replacement will move forward. Schleusner then thanked Solbos for his efforts.

Finally, Schleusner noted that the Science Advisory Board positions are not filled yet. Currently, interviews and telephone calls are taking place regarding several finalist positions.

#### **4. Fall Flows Monitoring Update**

Daryl Peterson, Monitoring and Analysis Branch Chief, Trinity River Restoration Program, provided a handout of the Finding of No Significant Impact to the fall releases of the additional 50,000 acre-feet from Trinity Dam (see Attachment 2). Peterson showed data that the flow trigger (e.g., base river flows of < 3,000 cfs at Terwer, near the mouth of the Klamath River) were met about the middle of August, this year. He showed data of the releases at Lewiston Dam that showed an increase release of 1650 cfs and the “ramp down” that is currently occurring. Other data showed increased river flows occurring at Terwer since the releases from Lewiston Dam. Temperature data showed decreased water temperatures in the Trinity River at Weitchpec from daily peaks of 74 F before the releases to daily peak of 68 F after the releases. Peterson noted that several sources of information indicated that the fall run of chinook to the Klamath system is late this year. He reviewed some of the monitoring efforts on the salmon run and water quality. He also reviewed efforts to monitor any incidence of disease outbreaks within the fall chinook. So far, disease incidences are low—there have been no incidences of Ich and two incidences of Columnarius.

Questions were raised about the exact wording of the trigger for the release based on the increase of incidence of disease. The original wording of the trigger was a doubling of the disease incidence occurring over a seven-day period. Peterson noted that a baseline level of disease is acceptable (e.g., 10 %) and that the trigger would be a doubling above the baseline over a seven-day period. Arnold Whitridge noted that this is different (i.e., doubling above a baseline value) than what was presented and agreed to during the July meeting.

#### **5. TRRP Web Page**

Robert Sullivan, Wildlife Biologist Trinity River Restoration Program, presented the webpage under development for the Trinity River Restoration Program. He showed various pages that described the program, its mission, its members, and related links. He also noted pages on published documents, recreation opportunities, the research that has been funded, fisheries, plant lists, and calendar of events. They are hoping to have the page up by September 18. The address is not known yet, but will be linked to other pages.

#### **6. Science Framework Preview**

Lori Kleifgen, Interdisciplinary Scientist, Trinity River Restoration Program, presented a conceptual plan on a “scientific framework” that will guide science and management decisions about the Trinity River. Kleifgen provided a handout (see Attachment 3). The framework would provide guidance on the design of restoration projects, prioritize activities, and promote cooperation among partners. The Trinity River Restoration team has identified areas where and

how science can help to reduce uncertainties and develop better policy. Kleifgen provided some of the strategy and background on conceptual models, monitoring, model development, and management. She also presented a proposed schedule for meetings and workshops to help promote this framework process.

Serge Birk asked if the TAMWG should provide formal endorsement in a letter. James Spear questioned whether the strategic plan should be formalized first. Rich Lorenz voiced his support for the synthesis of data. Jill Geist asked whether they could have more time to consider and review written documents before being asked whether to support or not. There was discussion about whether support is actually needed by the TAMWG at this time.

**A motion was made by Jim Feider that the TAMWG offer their support for the Science Framework but ask that effort be put toward integration and convergence with the strategic plan.**

**The motion was seconded by Tom Weseloh.**

**Arnold Whitridge asked for objections and hearing none declared the motion passed.**

There was follow up discussion on the level of interaction between the TAMWG and the science staff of the Trinity River Restoration Program and the scientific process (such as the development of the Strategic Framework). The discussion was prompted by Mary Ellen Mueller's caution that the "science process" (i.e., the work of the staff scientists) be should be separate from the "stakeholder decision process" (i.e., the work of the TAMWG membership). Mueller said, in her view, the scientists should be able to work apart from influence of the stakeholders and be able to provide the best biological advice to the TAMWG. Serge Birk and Dan Haycox voiced their beliefs that the TAMWG members have common goals about restoration of the river. They also stated that these common goals are more important than their individual goals. Birk also pointed out that the Record of Decision states the goals of restoration and gives wide directions about the development of hypotheses the TAMWG can perform, if it chooses. Therefore, they questioned whether the process of the TAMWG should be separated from the activities of the science staff.

## **7. FY 2004 Program of Work Plan and Budget**

Doug Schleusner provided an informational handout on the budget for fiscal year 2004 for the Trinity River Restoration Program (see attachment 4). The program administration for the Trinity River Weaverville office was \$3.0 million; rehabilitation and restoration was \$6.1 million; monitoring and analysis was \$4.2 million; the total annual expenditures were projected to be \$12.9 million. Schleusner reviewed some of the emphasis areas for activities of the program. He noted that a funding gap seems unlikely.

There was discussion of whether the TAMWG should meet to make budget recommendations.

Jim Feider read a draft statement of support for the Salt Creek Bridge project (a handwritten statement was handed to Arnold Whitridge). The draft statement would be drafted as a letter from

the TAMWG to the Bureau of Reclamation. The letter would emphasize the need to keep the project from slipping into fiscal year 2004 and the need for the Bureau of Reclamation to move the project forward.

Arnold Whitridge asked if there was any objection to sending a letter with Jim's statement. There was a question raised of whether CVPIA funds would be used for bridge removal. Ed Solbos replied no. Serge Birk stated that there were members of the CVPWA, which have publicly opposed use of CVPIA funds for funding bridge removal. Birk abstained from support of the proposed letter.

**The motion was made by Arnold Whitridge to send a letter the Bureau of Reclamation urging continued action on the bridge removal.**

**The motion was seconded by Tom Weseloh.**

**Arnold Whitridge hearing no objections declared it approved.**

**Serge Birk abstained from support.**

#### **8. Humboldt County's July 25 letter to Interior re: 50,000 acre-feet**

Jill Geist provided copies of a letter from the Humboldt County to the Bureau of Reclamation (see attachment 5). She also provided additional background on the letter. She listed several issues that have prevented the Bureau of Reclamation from providing the 50,000 acre-feet to the County. The County is continuing to seek administrative remedy.

#### **9. TAMWG letters of July 29 and August 12**

Arnold Whitridge reviewed two letters that were sent to the Trinity River Restoration Program in July and August (see attachments 6 and 7). Some comments were made about wording of the recommendations of the August 12 letter.

#### **10. TAMWG bylaws, charter, procedures, TAMWG members, and subcommittee operations**

Arnold Whitridge asked for general discussion.

Several deferred motions were brought up.

**A motion was made by Tom Weseloh that the TAMWG watershed subcommittee work with Tom Stokely on the SEIS/SEIR.**

**The motion was seconded by Pat Frost.**

**Arnold Whitridge asked for any objections and hearing none declared the motion passed.**

Clarifications on the selection of members to the Science Advisory Board were requested. Doug Schleusner said he will make final decision and that this should occur within the next two weeks.

The disease trigger for the release of the remaining 17,000 acre-feet of emergency water in Trinity Lake was discussed. It was decided that Mary Ellen Mueller would ask Scott Foott (USFWS) for greater clarification on the disease trigger. This clarification would be provided to the TAMWG and more discussion would occur at that time.

More discussion on procedures then occurred.

Serge Birk provided a review of the process of TAMWG discussions regarding the recommendations for the emergency flow releases. Birk suggested that the Trinity River Restoration Program staff be more collaborative with TAMWG and other partners. He acknowledged the concerns of Mary Ellen Mueller for the need to keep the science unbiased, but expressed his desire for more collaboration.

Charles Schultz thought the process and timing of decisions on the emergency releases was satisfactory. It was noted that three weeks is the quickest the TAMWG can meet due to requirements of meeting notices for a "FACA group." It was discussed whether meetings that are more frequent could be scheduled and then canceled if no agenda items were proposed. It was pointed out that cancellations also would need to be published in the Federal Register.

Elizabeth Soderstrom said that a show of hands seemed more definitive of passing of motions. It was also asked that action items be listed in the agendas.

## **11. Public comment**

No public comment.

## **12. Assignments and calendars**

The next meeting was scheduled for December 8, 2003 starting at 10 A.M.

The agenda items to be discussed include:

Strategic Plan

Subcommittee Reports

Announcements

Results from flow and monitoring

The meeting was adjourned.